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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1947

BY

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.

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*Public Health Department,  
Town Hall, Workington,  
February, 1948.*

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THE WORKINGTON STAR LIMITED.



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THE WORKINGTON STAR LIMITED.

## MEMBERS OF THE WORKINGTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

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Mr. C. BAIRD (Chairman).

Mr. E. BARRACLOUGH.

Mr. A. HALL.

,, A. V. CATTRELL.

,, J. POOLE.

,, J. R. DAVIS.

,, W. ROE.

,, J. DOGGART.

,, D. VICKERS.

Mr. S. WALKER.

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JOHN R. COCKFIELD, *Clerk to the Authority.*

R. W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.,

*Port Medical Officer of Health.*

R. E. FLETCHER, M.B., CH.B.,

*Deputy Port Medical Officer.*

R. JAMES, *Port Health Inspector.*

S. THOMPSON, *Assistant Port Health Inspector.*

TOWN HALL,

WORKINGTON,

February, 1948.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Workington  
Port Health Authority.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1947.

The report has been prepared on the lines required by Memorandum 302/ S.A., of the Ministry of Health dated December, 1946.

1. *Amount of Shipping Entering the Port  
during the Year.*

TABLE A.

			NUMBER	TONNAGE	No Inspected.		No. Reported to be Defective.	No. of Vessels on which defects were remedied.	No. of Vessels on which defects were found and reported to the Ministry of Transport Surveyors.	No. of Vessels reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
					By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Health Inspector				
Foreign	{	Steamers ...	93	144116	15	93	20	18	...	...
		Motor ...	29	28121	3	29	1	1	...	...
		Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fishing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Foreign ...			122	172237	18	122	21	19	...	...
Coast-wise	{	Steamers ...	137	30783	...	73	14	14	...	...
		Motor ...	52	10037	...	34	3	2	...	...
		Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fishing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Coastwise ...			189	40820	...	107	17	16	...	...
Total Foreign and Coastwise ...			311	213057	18	229	38	35	...	...

## 2. *Character and Trade of the Port.*

(a) *Passenger Traffic during the Year.*

Inwards 28. Outwards 9.

(b) *Cargo Traffic.*—The chief imports were iron ore and esparto grass, and the chief exports were rails, fish-plates, steel sleepers, pitch and tar.

(c) *Foreign Ports from which Vessels arrive.*—North Africa, West Africa, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Egypt (Red Sea), Belgium and Greece.

## 3. *Water Supply.*

The Port and ships receive the same water as the Borough of Workington, namely, from Crummock Lake. Samples submitted during the year for chemical and bacteriological examination proved satisfactory.

During the year water storage tanks on four vessels were cleaned out, and on one vessel samples of water submitted for examination proved satisfactory.

## 4. *Port Health Regulations, 1933 and 1945.*

The Regulations continue to operate smoothly. A comprehensive review was given in my last Annual Report.

TABLE C.

*Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.*

Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of Vessels concerned	Average Number of cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
Chickenpox ...	...	1	...	...



It will be observed that this case is not included in Table A—"Vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious diseases on board." The patient was a newly-signed member of the crew, having joined the vessel the day previous to sailing from Workington, and was removed to Isolation Hospital a few hours before the vessel sailed.

Sickness was reported on arrival of nineteen vessels, but none proved of an infectious character. Medical attention was given for hernia, pneumonia, diabetes, blood poisoning, duodenal ulcer, fractured bones (5), influenza (3), scabies (5) and cystitis.

Thirty-four cases of venereal diseases were reported and treatment was recommended.

One notice governing three birds was issued in pursuance of the Parrots (Prohibition of Import) Regulations.

#### 5. *Measures against Rodents.*

All vessels are inspected for the presence of rats. Trapping and baiting are carried out where necessary, and rat guards placed on all mooring ropes. The harbour, buildings, breakwater and foreshore have been periodically inspected. The type of cargoes (minerals) carried considerably reduces the risk of serious infestation.

In accordance with Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention of Paris, 1926, thirteen deratisation exemption certificates were issued by this Authority during the year.

Trouble was experienced with rats in the Dock Canteen.





TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels or Vessels from Plague infected Ports arriving in the Port during the Year.

Total number of such Vessels arriving	Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO <sub>2</sub>	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels fumigated by HCN	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels on which trapping etc. were employed	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat destruction were not carried out
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the Year.

Net Tonnage	Number of Ships	Number of Deratisation Certificates Issued						No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued
		After fumigation with			After Trapping <sup>6</sup> etc.	Total			
		HCN.	Sulphur	HCN. & Sulphur					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Ships up to 300 tons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
" from 301 tons to 1,000 tons	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	
" from 1,001 tons to 3,000 tons	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" from 3,001 tons to 10,000 tons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" over 10,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total	13	...	...	...	...	...	13	13	

6. *Hygiene of Crew's Spaces.*

TABLE J.

*Classification of Nuisances.*

Nationality of vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British ... ..	184	—	17	21
Other Nations .....	45	—	2	3

The defects or conditions prejudicial to health included—cleaning water tanks; renewing, repairing and cleansing sanitary fittings; leaking deck heads; defective wash room floors; dirty or verminous crew's spaces.

Owing to vermin, one vessel was fumigated with hydrocyanic acid gas, and eleven were disinfested with D.D.T.

7. *Food Inspection.*

No foodstuffs have been imported or exported during the year.

*General.*

There has been an increase of fifty-one vessels as compared with 1946, and it is pleasing to report the continued smooth working of the various Regulations with nothing calling for special comment.

Carcases of two sheep and one bullock were removed from the foreshore during the year.

I must again record my appreciation of the willing co-operation given me by H.M. Customs, Dock Officials, Pilots and my Staff in all matters.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.,

*Port Medical Officer.*



